

BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME!

# Suikoden™

## 幻想水滸伝



*Suikoden III: The Successor of Fate :: Aki Shimizu*

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PLAYSTATION®2

# Suikoden

幻想水滸伝

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*After the massacre of their village, the surviving members of the Karaya clan take refuge in the caves of the Lizard clan. As more is learned about the mysterious assassination of Zepon, the Lizard clan leader, Hugo, the Chieftain's son arrives. Though young Hugo survived the dangerous mission, his best friend—and his innocence—both died on Zexen swords. Now, the once happy-go-lucky lad is filled with a terrible resolve to avenge the death of his friend!*

---



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82766











IT'S  
JUST  
A BIT  
FURTHER,  
LADY  
CHRIS.



OUR  
HOME,  
BRASS  
CASTLE...



AH,  
THERE  
IT IS--  
AT  
LAST!



# Suikoden


幻想水滸伝

.....successor of fate.....

Vol. 2  
by Aki Shimizu



Los Angeles • Tokyo • London • Hamburg



## Story thus far...

The war between the Six Clans of the Grasslands and the Zexen Commonwealth dragged on far longer than either side expected. Tired of the seemingly pointless conflict, both parties sought a truce.

Lucia, chief of the Karaya Clan, sent her son Hugo to Vinay Del Zexay while the Zexens sent Knight Captain Chris Lightfellow (a.k.a. the Silver Maiden) to the Grasslands. Almost immediately after the truce declarations, both sides appeared to be betrayed by their former enemies. The Lizard Clan reported that their leader had been secretly murdered by the Zexens while Chris Lightfellow heard reports of the Grasslanders ambushing her forces.

Reluctantly, the Silver Maiden agreed to let her forces set fire to the Karaya village in order to create an escape route for her troops. While the Karaya village burned out of control, Hugo, Lulu (Hugo's best friend), and the Duck Clan warrior named Sgt. Joe returned and discovered Lady Chris in the midst of the chaos.

Enraged, young Lulu attacked Chris and--without thinking--the Knight Captain killed Lulu on the spot. Realizing their vulnerability, Sgt. Joe prevented Hugo from attacking Lady Chris and, in return, Chris spared both of their lives.

Now, despite their former desire for peace, the war between the Zexen Commonwealth and the Grasslands is most certainly back to full strength.

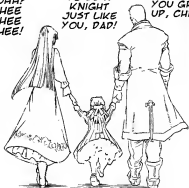




OHH?  
HEE  
HEE  
HEE!

OH,  
I WANT  
TO BE A  
KNIGHT  
JUST LIKE  
YOU, DAD!

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT TO  
BE WHEN  
YOU GROW  
UP, CHRIS?

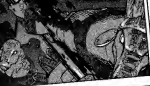


--DAD?



THAT WAY,  
I COULD  
BE WITH  
YOU--











I...



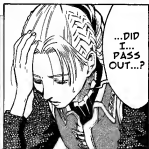
WHY  
DID  
YOU  
KILL  
HIM?



IS  
THIS  
WHAT  
YOU  
ALWAYS  
DO?



I  
DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO  
KILL  
HIM!





WHAT?  
THE COUNCIL?!  
I SHOULD  
BE THERE  
TOO!

AH! LADY  
CHRIS, YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
...!



WHERE  
IS  
SALOME  
...?



HE WAS  
CALLED  
TO VINAY  
DEL  
ZEXAY  
BY THE  
COUNCIL  
...



REST FOR  
NOW. YOU  
NEED TO  
GET YOUR  
STRENGTH  
BACK.

LOUIS  
IS RIGHT!  
WE DON'T  
WANT OUR  
CAPTAIN  
PASSING  
OUT  
AGAIN.



I'M  
SORRY...



YES, AND,  
UM, YOU  
KNOW...  
TRY NOT  
TO GIVE  
US  
ANOTHER  
SCARE...





Zexen Council

IF SHE  
KEEPS IT  
UP, THE  
BARBAR-  
IANS WILL  
HAVE TO  
GIVE IN.

SO SHE  
BURNED  
A KARAYA  
VILLAGE  
TO THE  
GROUND.

WE  
NEVER  
EXPECTED  
SUCH A  
BOLD  
MANEUVER  
FROM A  
WOMAN...

SHE  
NEVER  
WISHED  
TO INFLICT  
SUCH A  
TRAGEDY  
UPON THEIR  
NON-COM-  
BATANTS.

BURNING  
THE KARAYA  
VILLAGE WAS  
NOT SOMETHING  
SHE WANTED TO  
DO. IT WAS THE  
ONLY WAY FOR  
HER TO GET OUR  
ZEXEN TROOPS  
OUT OF THE  
KARAYA TRAP.





A PEACE  
TREATY WAS  
TRAMPLED!  
IT'S A MATTER  
OF NATIONAL  
PRIDE THAT  
ZEXEN TAKES  
THE APPROPRI-  
ATE ACTION.

THAT  
SNEAK  
ATTACK  
BY THE  
LIZARDS  
MADE OUR  
COOPERATION  
IN THE  
CEASE-FIRE  
MEANING-  
LESS...

MOVING  
ON...

WE  
SUMMONED  
YOU HERE  
TODAY FOR  
A DIFFERENT  
MATTER.

I'M  
AFRAID  
OUR TROOPS  
ARE IN NO  
STATE TO BE  
DEPLOYED.  
THEY STILL  
NEED TIME TO  
RECOVER.

YOU'RE  
ASKING  
US TO  
ATTACK  
THE  
LIZARD  
CLAN...?

THAT  
HAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH IT.

SO  
WE'VE  
HEARD ...  
ALSO--  
IS IT TRUE  
THAT THE  
CAPTAIN'S  
FALLEN  
...?



THAT  
ATTEMPTED  
ARREST OF THE  
KARAYA TREATY  
MESSENGERS WAS  
CERTAINLY WELL-  
TIMED. IT WOULD  
APPEAR THAT THE  
COUNCIL HAS  
SOMEONE WHO  
REALLY KNOWS  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON!

AND  
BESIDES,  
THAT  
INCIDENT  
HASN'T  
BEEN  
REPORTED  
YET.



YOU  
SHOULD  
WATCH  
YOUR  
WORDS,  
SIR  
SALOME.



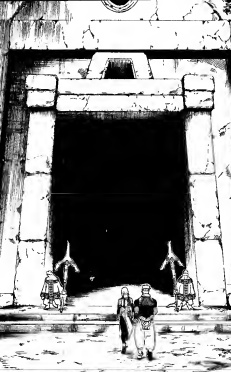
SOMEONE  
CERTAINLY  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE BEEN  
CONFUSED  
BY THE  
CHARMS OF  
THE SILVER  
MAIDEN...



YOU  
WANT  
ME TO  
TURN  
A BLIND  
EYE TO  
SOMEONE  
LEAKING  
OUR  
ARMY'S  
SECRETS?









HE'S PROBABLY HIDING OUT WITH ONE OF THE OTHER CLANS... HE'LL BE BACK.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M SURE HE'S FINE.



YES, I AM.

YOU'RE CERTAIN OF THAT?

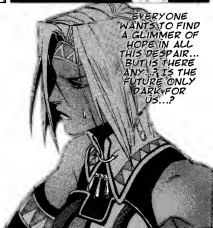


HUGO AND THE OTHERS...

ARE THEY REALLY ABLE TO DO THAT?



WHERE... WHERE'S YOUR SON?



EVERYONE WANTS TO FIND A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN ALL THIS DESPAIR... BUT IS THERE ANY...? IS THE FUTURE ONLY DARK FOR US...?





UNFORTUNATELY, WE'LL CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR HELP FOR A WHILE.

I WANT TO THANK OUR NOBLE COMRADES, THE WARRIORS OF THE LIZARD CLAN.



PLEASE, DO MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME HERE.



THANK YOU.

I KNOW THAT YOU, TOO, HAVE SUFFERED LATELY...



LIKE US, OUR FELLOW GRASSLANDERS CANNOT STAND TO LIVE UNDER THE SAME SKY AS THE IRON-HEADS. OUR COMRADES ARE WELCOME TO STAY WITH US.



STRANGE  
THINGS?



YOU  
MEAN...  
LORD  
ZEPON

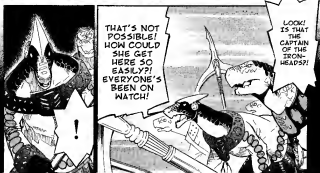
YES,  
THERE  
WERE  
MANY  
STRANGE  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
HIS  
PASSING.



B  
A  
Z  
B  
A  
P



I WAS  
WATCHING  
OVER THE  
VILLAGE  
WHILE LORD  
DUPA WENT  
OFF TO  
SIGN THE  
CEASE-FIRE  
TREATY.



THAT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE!  
HOW COULD  
SHE GET  
HERE SO  
EASILY?!  
EVERYONE'S  
BEEN ON  
WATCH!

LOOK!  
IS THAT  
THE  
CAPTAIN  
OF THE  
IRON-  
HEADS?!

!









THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
AND THE  
ZEXEN  
ATTACK  
WAS  
STRANGE,  
TOO.



THAT  
REALLY IS  
STRANGE--  
BECAUSE I AM  
EQUALLY SURE  
THAT SAME  
WOMAN WAS AT  
THE SIGNING OF  
THE CEASE-FIRE  
AT THAT VERY  
MOMENT.



ALTHOUGH  
THEY COULD  
PROBABLY HAVE  
FLATTENED US  
WITH A FULL-ON  
ASSAULT--THEY  
STOOD THERE,  
MOTIONLESS...

...AS IF THEY  
WERE INVITING  
US TO ATTACK  
THEM.



WE  
MUST  
WARN  
HIM!  
NOW!



LORD  
ZEPON  
MUST  
BE IN  
DAN-  
GER!!

SHIBA!  
THEY'RE  
TRYING  
TO FOOL  
US!!



THIS  
IS ALL  
WRONG!



BUT IT  
WAS TOO  
LATE...



WHEN  
I GOT  
TO HIM,  
LORD  
ZEPON  
WAS  
ALREADY

...



HIS  
GUARDS  
TOLD ME  
A LIZARD  
CLAIMING  
TO BE A  
MESSENGER  
FOR LORD  
DUPA  
HAD  
JUST GONE  
INTO  
ZEPON'S  
ROOM  
MOMENTS  
BEFORE.



LORD  
DUPA HAS  
NO RECOL-  
LECTION OF  
SENDING  
SUCH A  
MESSEN-  
GER.



YES! AND  
THANKS  
TO THIS  
TRAITOR,  
NO ONE  
KNOWS  
WHOM TO  
TRUST  
ANYMORE

...



YOU  
MEAN--  
THERE'S  
A TRAITOR  
AMONGST  
THE  
LIZARDS?



--THE  
IRON-  
HEADS  
ARE  
OUR  
ENEMY.

THE  
ONE  
THING  
WE CAN  
ALL BE  
SURE  
OF IS  
THIS--



NONE  
OF IT  
MAKES  
ANY  
SENSE  
TO  
ME...



YOU  
THINK?

AT LEAST  
YOU'RE  
EASY TO  
UNDER-  
STAND,  
SHIBA.



THIS  
IS OUR  
MAIN  
BASE OF  
OPERATIONS,  
THE  
GREAT  
HOLLOW.



YEAH.

I CAN  
TELL  
THIS IS  
YOUR  
FIRST  
TIME  
HERE,  
ISN'T  
IT?



WEL-  
COME  
BACK,  
SIR!

YEAH  
...

WE  
USED THEM  
IN THE LAST  
BATTLE TO  
TRY AND  
KILL THE  
IRONHEADS'  
CAPTAIN.

FROM  
HERE,  
SECRET  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
PATHS  
SPREAD  
OUT IN ALL  
DIRECTIONS.  
WE CALL  
THEM "QUICK  
CORRIDORS."

THIS  
IS THE  
CENTER  
OF ALL  
THE  
CAVERNS

HOW DO  
YOU LIKE  
IT? IT'S  
REALLY  
QUITE AN  
AMAZING  
SIGHT,  
ISN'T  
IT?

M-  
MOTHER

YOU  
WILL  
BE  
SAFE  
HERE  
WITH  
US.

THE  
KARAYA  
HAVE  
BEEN  
HERE  
SINCE--

HUGO!



I'M  
SO  
GLAD  
YOU'RE  
BACK...

I KNOW  
WHEN I  
SENT YOU  
TO ZEXEN,  
I SAID YOU  
MIGHT BE  
KILLED--  
BUT I  
NEVER  
DREAMED  
IT WOULD  
COME TO  
THIS!



THANK  
GOOD-  
NESS!  
I WAS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YOU!



HM?

MOM



.....





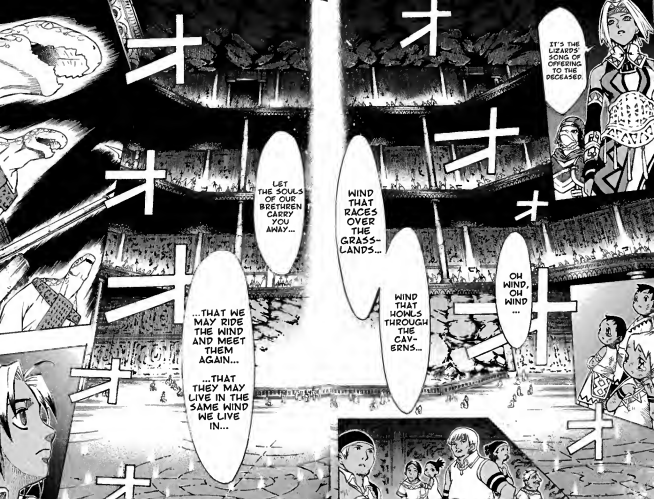












IT'S THE  
LIZARD'S  
SONG OF  
OFFERING  
TO THE  
DECEASED.

LET  
THE SOULS  
OF OUR  
BRETHREN  
CARRY  
YOU  
AWAY...

WIND  
THAT  
RACES  
OVER  
THE  
GRASS-  
LANDS...

WIND  
THAT  
HOWLS  
THROUGH  
THE  
CAV-  
ERNS...

OH  
WIND,  
OH  
WIND  
...

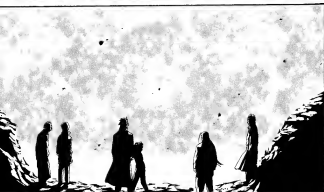
...THAT WE  
MAY RIDE  
THE WIND  
AND MEET  
THEM  
AGAIN...

...THAT  
THEY MAY  
LIVE IN THE  
SAME WIND  
WE LIVE  
IN...













WHAT  
COULD  
YOU  
HAVE  
DONE,  
ALL  
ALONE?

.....



...WHY  
DID  
YOU  
STOP  
ME  
BACK  
THERE?



WE  
HAD NO  
SUCH  
OBLIGA-  
TION TO  
THE  
KARAYA.



WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOU  
GUYS  
HELP  
US  
OUT,  
THEN?!



.....



EVEN  
WITH US  
THERE,  
THERE  
WAS  
NOTHING  
WE  
COULD  
HAVE  
DONE.



YOU  
WANT  
TO  
HEAR  
THE  
TRUTH,  
RIGHT,  
AILA?



BUT,  
IN THE  
MIDST OF ALL  
THAT  
SAD-  
NESS--

--I  
HEARD  
SOME-  
ONE  
ELSE'S  
VOICE...

I  
HEARD  
MANY  
CRIES OF  
ANGER  
AND  
SORROW--  
AND ALSO  
THE  
VOICES  
OF FIRE  
...

IT  
WAS A  
STRANGE  
FEELING.



A  
I  
L  
A  
...?

WHEN YOU  
TOUCHED  
YOUR HAND  
TO THE  
EARTH--  
WHAT WERE  
YOU  
DOING?



I WAS  
LISTEN-  
ING TO  
THE  
EARTH'S  
VOICE.



YOU  
CAN HEAR  
PEOPLE'S  
THOUGHTS--  
AND EVEN  
THE VOICES  
OF SPIRITS--  
TRANSMITTED  
THROUGH  
THE EARTH.



IT  
MUST  
HAVE  
BEEN  
HE WHO  
KILLED  
THEM  
ALL.

IF  
NOT--  
WHY  
WOULD  
HE BE  
LAUGHING  
WITH SUCH  
PLEASURE?

...THERE  
WAS THE  
VOICE OF A  
HORRIBLE  
MAN--  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
SPIRITS OF  
THE DYING.

EVEN AS  
I HEARD  
CRIES AT  
THE HOUR  
OF DEATH  
FOR THE  
VILLAGERS--

...  
SOMEONE  
WHO WAS  
LAUGH-  
ING.



...IT  
WAS  
SUCH A  
TERRI-  
BLE  
FEEL-  
ING.

I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
...I  
DON'T  
KNOW,  
BUT...



...THEN  
WHAT  
WAS  
HE?

IF  
NOT A  
SPIRIT  
...



HEY, LOOK--  
WHAT WAS  
THAT  
JUST  
NOW?!



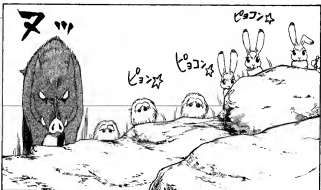
GOING  
ON ABOUT  
VOICES AND  
SPIRITS...  
YOU'RE  
NOT MAK-  
ING ANY  
SENSE!



I'M  
NOT  
MAKING  
THIS  
UP!



! ! ! !

















UH  
OH!



SO  
THAT'S  
WHERE  
YOU  
WERE!

J  
A  
C  
C  
O  
B  
E  
S



IT  
DOESN'T  
PAY TO  
UNDERES-  
TIMATE  
US...

YOU GUYS  
ARE EVEN  
BETTER  
THAN I  
FIGURED.

WE  
MERCE-  
NARIES  
HAVE  
TO BE  
GOOD--  
OR ELSE.

WHO  
KNOWS?  
WE MOVE  
ON. IN  
FACT,  
WHAT'S  
NEXT,  
GEDDOR?

SO,  
WHAT  
WAS THAT  
ABOUT...?  
WHAT  
COULD HAVE  
PROVOKED  
SUCH AN  
ATTACK...?







THE LAST  
THING WE  
NEED IS  
MORE  
BAGGAGE!

STOP!

WHA  
--?

BOSS!

SUIT  
YOUR-  
SELF.

I  
VOTE  
WE  
LEAVE  
HER!



...WE  
CAN...

ALWAYS  
USE  
A GOOD  
FIGHTER



RELAX.  
SHE  
COULD  
BE AN  
ASSET.  
SHE'S  
PRETTY  
GOOD  
AT  
FIGHT-  
ING!



RIGHT  
?

TRUST  
YOU TO  
GIVE IN,  
YOU OLD  
BOOZER!!

...I GUESS  
WE COULD  
STRETCH  
OUR  
FINANCES  
TO GET  
AN EXTRA  
BOTTLE...

WE'LL  
SEE WHAT  
COMES  
OF THIS  
LITTLE  
CHARITY  
STUNT.

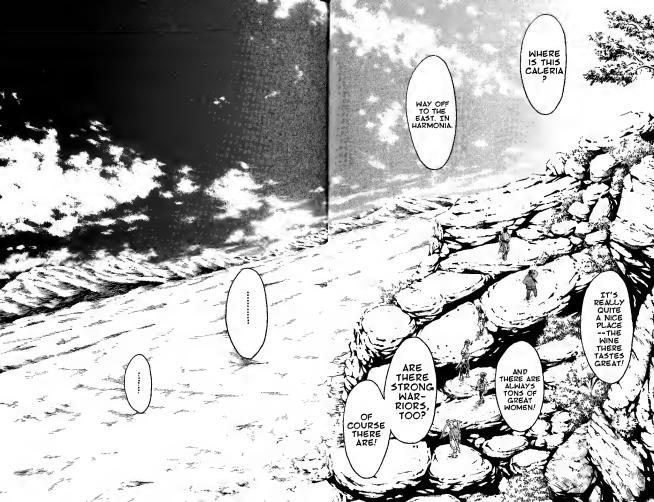
GIVE  
IT UP!  
SHE'S  
COM-  
ING.

OKAY,  
OKAY!  
ENOUGH  
ALREADY!



OKAY,  
AILA,  
LET'S  
GET  
GOING!





WHERE  
IS THIS  
CALERIA  
?

WAY OFF  
TO THE  
EAST. IN  
HARMONIA.

IT'S  
REALLY  
QUITE  
A NICE  
PLACE  
--THE  
WINE  
THERE  
TASTES  
GREAT!

AND  
THERE ARE  
ALWAYS  
TONS OF  
GREAT  
WOMEN!

ARE  
THERE  
STRONG  
WAR-  
RIORS,  
TOO?

OF  
COURSE  
THERE  
ARE!

.....

.....

"CLEARLY THERE  
HAVE BEEN TIMES IN YOUR  
LIFE THAT WERE TERRIBLE  
ENOUGH TO FILL YOU WITH  
A BURNING HATRED--AND  
A DESIRE TO DESTROY  
EVERYTHING."



THE  
IRONHEADS  
WILL PAY  
FOR THIS!

THE  
KARAYA  
VILLAGE  
HAS  
BEEN  
BURNED  
DOWN!

THE  
CHIEF IS  
DEAD!  
IT'S THE  
IRON-  
HEADS'  
FAULT!

LET  
THEM  
ATONE  
IN  
BLOOD  
AND  
FLAME!!



THEY  
MUST  
DIE!



KILL  
THEM!



KILL  
THEM!



HE WAS  
AROUND  
LAST  
NIGHT...



HUGO'S  
DISAP-  
PEARED  
?!



THAT  
CHILD  
IS  
IMPOSS-  
IBLE  
...



THIS  
IS  
JUST  
LIKE  
WHEN  
HE  
TOOK  
OFF  
LAST  
TIME.



I'LL  
LEAVE  
IT TO  
YOU,  
SER-  
GEANT.



MY  
GUESS  
IS HE  
WENT  
THIS  
WAY.



WHAT'S  
HUGO  
UP TO?

HE  
CAN'T  
HAVE  
GOTTEN  
TOO  
FAR.



--HE'LL  
BE  
HEADING  
FOR THE  
ZEXEN  
CAPITAL--  
WHERE  
THE  
IRON-  
HEADS'  
CAPTAIN  
IS.

IF  
HE'S  
GONE  
TO  
AVENGE  
LULU--



IF  
HUGO'S  
ACTING  
LIKE  
THIS--  
HE'S NOT  
LIKELY  
TO HEAR  
YOU.

REMINDE  
YOU OF  
ANYONE?

**KUUEE!**



LET'S  
GO,  
FUBAR!



HOW  
ABOUT  
WE LET  
SGT. JOE  
BRING  
HIM  
BACK?

MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
GO TALK  
SOME  
SENSE  
INTO  
HUGO?





BUT... I STILL  
HAVE TO GO  
THERE.



IF LULU  
HADN'T DRAWN  
HIS BLADE  
AGAINST THE  
IRONHEADS,  
HE WOULDN'T  
BE DEAD  
NOW.

I  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT, TOO.

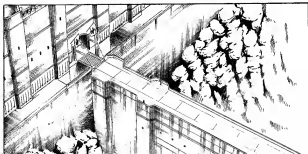


MOTHER...  
SGT. JOE...  
I'M SORRY.

I KNOW  
THIS IS  
CRAZY...



...AND  
I SEE  
WHY THE  
SERGEANT  
STOPPED  
ME BACK  
THEN.





THERE  
MUST  
HAVE  
BEEN  
SOME-  
THING  
ELSE I  
COULD  
HAVE  
DONE.

MAYBE  
I COULD  
HAVE  
KNOCKED  
HIS  
WEAPON  
ASIDE...?



...I  
KNOW YOU  
FEEL BAD,  
BUT YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
BE SO HARD  
ON YOUR-  
SELF.

LADY  
CHRIS  
...



LADY  
CHRIS  
...



---  
STRUCK,  
WITHOUT  
MERCY---



--AND,  
WITHOUT  
THINKING,  
MY  
HAND--

IT  
JUST  
HAPPENED  
SO FAST!  
THE  
YOUNG  
BOY  
ATTACKED  
ME--



LADY  
CHRIS!





YOU'VE  
GOT  
SOME  
COLOR  
BACK.  
YOU  
LOOK  
MUCH  
BETTER.

I THINK  
I'M OKAY  
NOW--  
THANK  
YOU.



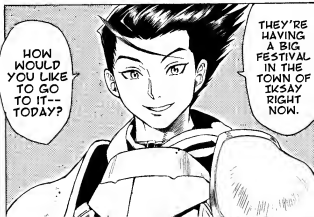
OH  
IT'S  
YOU,  
PER-  
CIVAL.

HELLO

HOW  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING?

IN  
FACT,  
I HAVE  
SOME-  
THING  
TO ASK  
YOU.

TO  
ASK  
ME  
...?



HOW  
WOULD  
YOU LIKE  
TO GO  
TO IT--  
TODAY?

THEY'RE  
HAVING  
A BIG  
FESTIVAL  
IN THE  
TOWN OF  
IKSAY  
RIGHT  
NOW.





WHEW!  
THE  
WEATHER  
IS FINE,  
HUH?

POW POW POW



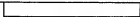
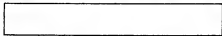
D-  
DON'T  
LOOK  
AT ME  
LIKE  
THAT!



AND  
YOU  
KNOW  
...

...BUT  
YOU'RE  
ALSO  
LOOK-  
ING FINE  
TODAY!

—  
PARDON  
MY  
BOLD-  
NESS...





WHY,  
THAT'S  
--!



UH HUH,  
ALTHOUGH  
I HAVEN'T  
BEEN BACK  
SINCE I  
WAS  
YOUNG.

OHWW, I  
GET IT!  
IKK SAY  
IS YOUR  
HOME-  
TOWN,  
ISN'T  
IT?



THOUGHT  
I'D TAKE  
THIS  
OPPOR-  
TUNITY  
TO CHECK  
IT OUT.



YOU'VE  
REALLY  
GROWN  
INTO  
BEAUTIFUL  
WOMEN!



SUCH  
LUSCIOUS,  
MOIST  
SKIN!

AND  
SUCH A  
GLOW-  
ING, RED  
COLOR!



YOU'RE SO  
SOFT, AND  
SMELL SO  
FINE--AND  
SO FULL  
OF SWEET  
NECTAR...



HEY, PERCIVAL!  
YOU'VE  
COME  
BACK!



BARTS!  
IT'S  
BEEN A  
LONG  
TIME!



OH, THEY'RE  
GOOD--!

THESE  
ARE THE  
WONDERFUL  
CHILDREN  
I'VE RAISED--  
BASKING IN  
THE LOVELY  
WARMTH OF  
THE SUN!



AS  
ALWAYS,  
YOU  
BLEND  
IN WITH  
THE  
EARTH.

SO...?  
HOW  
ARE THIS  
YEAR'S  
TOMATOES  
COMING  
ALONG?



TAKE  
A  
LOOK  
AND  
SEE.

HEH



WAA!



AND  
HERE'S  
ONE FOR  
YOUR  
FRIEND!

HERE,  
EAT  
ONE!



THOSE  
TOMATOES  
DESERVE  
TO BE  
EATEN BY  
SOMEONE  
LIKE YOU!



IT  
MAKES  
ME GASP!  
SUCH AN  
ENCHANT-  
ING BLEND  
OF SWEET  
AND  
BITTER!

OH,  
THIS IS  
REALLY  
GOOD!

AHH,  
YOU'RE  
SO RIGHT!  
THAT'S  
WHAT THE  
FLAVOR  
IS! IT'S  
PRICE-  
LESS!

DIDN'T  
I TELL  
YOU  
THEY WERE  
GOOD?



ALL  
RIGHT!

LET  
ME JUST  
FINISH UP  
ONE LAST  
CHORE  
AND THEN  
WE'LL GO  
GET A  
DRINK.



WHAT--  
YOU,  
TOO,  
LADY  
CHRIS?!

"PERCY"  
HUH...?

NEVER  
MIND...  
IT REALLY  
IS A NICE  
TOWN.



OH,  
MY,  
MY!  
HE'S  
GOT-  
TEN  
SO BIG!

GOOD-  
NESS!  
IS THAT  
LITTLE  
PERCY  
?!



N-NO,  
SHE'S  
NOT--  
I, UH...!

IS  
THIS  
YOUR  
BRIDE  
HERE,  
PERCY?

SHE  
SURE  
LOOKS  
LOVELY

AND  
WHY  
NOT?  
I'VE  
BEEN  
GONE  
A  
LONG  
TIME.











UM,  
VERY  
ENER-  
GETIC!

I  
GUESS  
DANC-  
ING'S  
GOOD  
FOR  
YOU--  
ONCE  
IN A  
WHILE.

HOW  
DID YOU  
LIKE OUR  
IKSAY  
DANCING?



I  
WASN'T  
JUST  
SAYING  
IT.



YOU  
ARE EVEN  
LOVELIER  
THAN  
USUAL,  
LADY  
CHRIS.



OH,  
L-LAY  
OFF THE  
FLATTERY!

*Smooth-  
talker!*



AND HOW ABOUT THE YOUNG LADY? CARE TO JOIN US?

I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A WALK IN THE FRESH AIR FOR A BIT.

OH! NO, I'M FINE.



SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING--LET'S GO HAVE THAT DRINK, SHALL WE?



HEY, PER-CIVAL!



OKAY, SEE YOU LATER!



WHAT A GRUMP! SO--GUESS HOW HARD IT WAS GROWING THE WHEAT THIS YEAR...!

AH, FORGET ABOUT IT.

WELL, YOUR TIMING STILL STINKS.

HOW'S THAT?



.....





GOLDEN  
STALKS  
OF WHEAT  
WITH THE  
GLOW OF  
SUNSET  
UPON  
THEM...





WHO'D  
EVER  
HAVE  
THOUGHT  
I MIGHT  
BUMP  
INTO  
YOU  
HERE?

YOU'RE  
LADY CHRIS  
LIGHTFELLOW,  
CAPTAIN OF  
THE ZEXEN  
KNIGHTS,  
RIGHT?









I DON'T CARE IF IT'S "NASH" OR "BRASH"—WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THIS TOWN!

WE NEED TO GET THE TOWNS-PEOPLE TO SAFETY RIGHT AWAY!



YOU  
MEAN...THE  
GRASSLAND  
ARMIES ARE  
GOING TO  
ATTACK THIS  
VILLAGE?!

YES.



WOULD  
IT BE  
CLEARER  
IF I SAID  
IT WAS AN  
ACT OF  
RETALIATION  
BY THE  
KARAYAP?



SOME-  
THING  
TERRI-  
BLE?



...SOMEONE  
ASKED  
ME TO  
INVESTI-  
GATE  
THE WAR  
BETWEEN  
ZEXEN  
AND THE  
GRASS-  
LANDS.

I  
LEARNED  
OF THIS  
DURING  
THAT  
INVESTI-  
GATION.

I CAN'T  
TELL YOU  
EXACTLY,  
BUT...



HOW  
DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
THIS?!



EXCEL-  
LENT  
POINT!



...WHY  
COME  
TO ME  
WITH  
THIS?





I TRIED  
TO TELL  
SOME  
OF THE  
VILLAGERS,  
BUT THEY  
WOULDN'T  
HEAR ME  
OUT!



I'M  
SERIOUS,  
CHRIS!  
WE'VE GOT  
TO ACT  
QUICKLY!

BUT IF  
SOMEONE  
OF YOUR  
STATURE  
GAVE AN  
ORDER,  
THEY'D  
LISTEN.



CAN  
I TRUST  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
HON'T  
EVEN  
TELL  
ME HIS  
TRUE  
IDENTITY ...?

IS  
HE FOR  
REAL?



THIS  
MAN



THEY  
COULD BE  
ATTACKING  
AT ANY  
MOMENT,  
RIGHT?

COME  
WITH  
ME!

WOW,  
YOU MAKE  
QUICK  
DECISIONS,  
DON'T  
YOU?



ALL  
RIGHT!

I'LL  
DO  
AS  
YOU  
SAY!



OH,  
I GOT  
THAT!



JUST  
DON'T  
THINK  
THAT THIS  
MEANS I  
TRUST  
YOU!





WHAT DO YOU --?



OH NO!  
ARE WE  
TOO  
LATE?



NO!

IT'S  
THE  
ENEMY  
!!



IS  
THAT A  
TREMOR?

?!



THEY  
DON'T  
SUSPECT  
A THING!



DESTROY  
EVERY-  
THING,  
BURN  
IT ALL  
DOWN!



KILL  
ANYONE  
WHO  
RAISES A  
SWORD  
AGAINST  
US!









YES,  
MA'AM!

PERCIVAL,  
GET  
EVERY-  
ONE OUT OF  
THE TOWN!



NOT  
UNTIL  
WE'VE  
GOTTEN  
ALL THE  
TOWNS-  
PEOPLE TO  
SAFETY!



CHRIS!  
YOU  
NEED  
TO GET  
OUT,  
TOO!



THAT  
BLOND  
HAIR---

THERE'S  
NO MIS-  
TAKING  
IT!

THAT  
NAME  
...

...  
THAT  
VOICE  
!



DID HE  
SAY  
CHRIS...  
?!





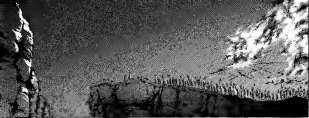
MY HANDS<sup>COO</sup>  
HAVE BEEN  
STAINED  
CRIMSON WITH  
THE BLOOD OF  
ALL THOSE I'VE  
KILLED!

THE  
IRONHEADS'  
CAPTAIN IS  
HERE!!

DON'T  
LET  
HER  
GET  
AWAY!

IT'S  
THE  
WHITE  
DEVIL!!







DON'T  
YOU  
TELL ME  
YOU'VE  
FORGOT-  
TEN  
ALREADY!!

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
MAGIC YOU  
USED...BUT  
IT WAS  
YOU WHO  
STOLE INTO  
THE LIZARD  
CLAN AND  
KILLED OUR  
CHIEF  
ZEPON!!

OH,  
DON'T  
START  
WITH  
THE  
LIES!



NOW--  
EVEN IN  
YOUR  
FINAL  
MOMENTS  
--YOU  
STILL  
PRETEND  
NOT TO  
KNOW?!

HOW  
DARE  
YOU  
--?



?!  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



I'LL  
TAKE  
CARE  
OF  
HER.

KILL  
HER!

KILL  
HER!

KILL  
HER!

KILL  
HER!

IS THAT  
WHY YOU  
DEFEND  
THEIR  
ACTIONS?

YOU'RE  
THE  
LEADER  
OF THE  
IRON-  
HEADS,  
AREN'T  
YOU?

ウオオオオオオオオオオオオオオオオ



WE'VE  
ALL  
DONE  
TERRI-  
BLE  
THINGS.  
I JUST  
---



TAKE UP  
YOUR  
SWORD.





YOU'RE







GASP!

...  
PRETTY GOOD!!



GETTING  
A LITTLE  
TANGLED  
UP?







HOLD  
IT  
RIGHT  
THERE!



YOU  
DON'T  
MIND  
MY  
CUTTING  
IN...?



SURELY  
THERE'S  
A BETTER  
WAY TO  
SETTLE  
THINGS...?

THIS IS  
HARDLY  
BEFITTING  
TWO  
GALLANT  
WARRIORS  
SUCH AS  
YOUR-  
SELVES!



WHOA!  
JUST  
PICKING  
UP MY  
FRIEND  
HERE--



NOT IF  
YOU  
DON'T  
MIND  
A  
QUICK  
DEATH.



SO LONG,  
CHIEF!

--  
BECAUSE,  
ALAS, WE  
REALLY  
MUST BE  
GOING!



?!





WE  
JUST  
LET  
THEM  
GET  
AWAY!



W  
H  
A  
T  
?

LORD  
DUPA! AN  
IRONHEAD  
OFFICER  
HAS BEEN  
SPOTTED  
NEAR THE  
TOWN!



WE'VE  
LEFT  
OUR  
MARK  
HERE---  
FOR  
NOW.

DON'T  
WASTE  
YOUR  
TIME.



NO.

SHALL  
WE  
GIVE  
CHASE?







WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOU  
PROTECT  
LADY  
CHRIS?!



STOP  
IT, SIR  
BORUS!



FORGIVE  
ME...





WE'LL  
SEARCH  
DOWN-  
STREAM.

THE  
VILLAGERS  
SAY THAT  
GRASSLANDERS  
CHASED LADY  
CHRIS OFF--  
AND THEN SHE  
FELL INTO  
THE RIVER  
WITH A LONE  
WARRIOR.

WE  
HAVE NO  
TIME FOR  
FIGHTING  
AMONGST  
OUR-  
SELVES.



COME  
ON  
EVERY-  
ONE--  
LET'S  
GO!

SIR  
BORUS?



YOU  
KNOW  
WHO  
HE IS?

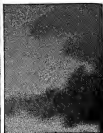
A LONE  
WARRIOR...?  
COULD IT  
BE THAT  
GUY..?



MAYBE--  
BUT I  
THOUGHT  
HE WAS  
JUST A  
CASANOVA.



C-  
CASANOVA  
...?



SO WHAT?  
WE GOT  
AWAY,  
DIDN'T WE?

YOU  
TOOK  
QUITE  
A RISK  
BACK  
THERE.



I  
HADN'T  
THOUGHT  
THAT FAR  
AHEAD.

H M M  
...

ALL  
RIGHT...  
NASH,  
ISN'T IT?  
WHERE DO  
WE GO  
FROM  
HERE?





HEY, WAIT  
A SEC---!  
THERE'S  
A CASTLE  
JUST  
DOWN  
RIVER  
FROM  
HERE!

THERE'S  
A NEW  
LORD  
THERE  
NOW, BUT  
I HEAR  
IT'S STILL  
A GOOD  
PLACE.

THEY'LL  
LET US  
STAY  
THERE A  
WHILE.



...YOU'RE A  
HARMONIAN,  
AREN'T  
YOU?

DON'T  
TRY  
TO  
HIDE  
IT.



WHAT'S  
WITH  
THAT  
LOOK?  
HE  
SHOULD  
GET A  
MOVE  
ON...



THOSE  
WEASELS  
ON THE  
COUNCIL  
HAVE  
REALLY  
BEEN ON  
THE MONEY  
LATELY.

THEY  
FERRETED  
OUT THE  
FACT THAT A  
HARMONIAN  
HAS BEEN  
LEAKING  
INFORMA-  
TION.

A BLOND  
HARMON-  
IAN, IF I  
RECALL  
CORRECTLY  
...

SO, TELL  
ME--JUST  
WHAT IS IT  
YOU'RE  
AFTER?!



--I'M  
NOT THE ONE  
LEAKING THE  
INFORMATION!

...SORRY.  
EVEN  
THOUGH THE  
CAPTAIN OF  
THE ZEXEN  
KNIGHTS  
SHOULD BE  
SUSPICIOUS--



MY  
FATHER?  
HE DIED  
IN BATTLE  
A LONG  
TIME  
AGO...

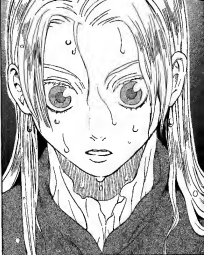
?!

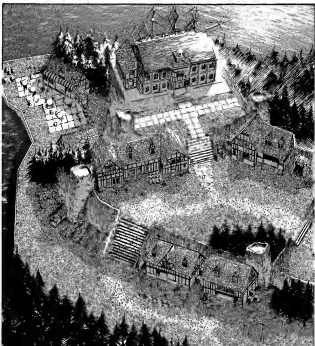
...I  
WAS  
SEARCH-  
ING FOR  
YOUR  
FATHER.

ALL  
RIGHT,  
THEN--  
WHY...?



NO,  
CHRIS.  
HE'S  
STILL  
ALIVE.



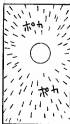








In the two weeks since coming to the castle, I've gotten used to the way of life here.



Year 475 of the Sun Calendar: X-month, Y-day. The weather here is fabulous.



—Eike's engrossed in reorganizing the books.



Martha knits while tending to the shop--



The routine doesn't change from day to day.



Piccolo tells me not to worry when he says: "Your lucky color today is pink!"

That could be trouble-- I don't have anything pink to wear!



The only thing out of the ordinary is that new traveler who's staying with us.





I COULD  
FIND SOME  
ODD JOBS  
TO DO  
INSIDE THE  
MANOR,  
TOO, SIR.

HEY, IT'S  
JUST MY  
WAY OF  
THANKING  
YOU FOR  
LETTING  
ME STAY  
FOR FREE.



--ASK A  
GUEST TO  
DO THAT  
SORT OF  
THING  
FOR US.

GREAT!  
AND  
LISTEN--  
I'M SORRY  
THAT WE  
HAD TO--



I ALSO  
ASKED  
JUAN,  
BUT HE  
NEVER GOT  
AROUND TO  
IT...

...APPAR-  
ENTLY HE'S  
AFRAID OF  
HEIGHTS.

I'M  
SO SORRY  
TO HAVE  
SENT YOU UP  
THERE--WE  
HAVE A  
YOUNG LAD  
HERE, BUT...



YOU CAN  
CALL ME  
"THOMAS,"  
HUGO.



WHY WOULDN'T I CHOOSE THIS SPOT? IT'S THE SUNNIEST!

HUNH?

JUAN! MUST YOU SLEEP RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CHATEAU?!

OH, JEEZ!



CHECK IT OUT-- IF YOU TICKLE THIS GUY'S BELLY, HE STARTS KICKING.

COME ON, OSCAR-- WIGGLE UP!



SOMEONE'S COMING...



WHOA! IT'S TRUE!



WE'VE  
GOT  
ANOTHER  
GUEST,  
LORD  
THOMAS!

LORD  
THOMAS  
!!

THOMAS!

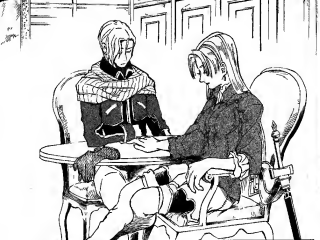
WH-  
WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER,  
CECILE?

SH-SHE'S  
NOT AN  
ORDINARY  
GUEST!!

WHAT--?  
IS THAT  
ALL?

THE  
CAPTAIN  
OF THE  
ZEXEN  
KNIGHTS!

IT'S  
LADY  
CHRIS  
!



WHO KNOWS?

...WHAT WOULD THE KNIGHT CAPTAIN BE DOING IN SUCH A REMOTE PLACE?

ALL RIGHT, NASH--I BELIEVE YOU OWE ME AN EXPLANATION.

DO YOU KNOW THE TALES OF THE FLAME CHAMPION AND THE FIRE BRINGER, CHRIS?

I'M NOT JOKING...

HOW ABOUT IT?



AROUND  
50 YEARS  
AGO, A  
MAN  
STOLE A  
RUNE  
FROM  
HARMONIA.

YOU  
MIGHT  
WANT  
TO  
HEAR  
THIS  
FIRST  
...

I'VE  
HEARD  
THOSE  
NAMES.  
BUT WHAT  
I WANT TO  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
NOW--

USING THE  
RUNE'S POWER,  
THIS MAN THAT THE  
GRASSLANDERS  
CALLED "THE FLAME  
CHAMPION" LED A  
GROUP WHO CALLED  
THEMSELVES "THE  
FIRE RINGERS."  
TOGETHER, THEY  
BROUGHT AN END  
TO THE FIGHTING  
BETWEEN HARMONIA  
AND THE  
GRASSLANDS.

THERE WERE  
ALWAYS TWO  
MEN AT THE  
SIDE OF THE  
FLAME  
CHAMPION.  
IT IS SAID  
THAT THESE  
TWO ALSO  
HELD TRUE  
RUNES.

IT WAS NO  
ORDINARY  
EMBLEM.  
"THE TRUE  
FIRE RING"  
AS IT WAS  
CALLED.  
RESTORED  
UPON ITS  
OWNER  
FEARFUL  
POWERS.

TH--

...WAS  
YOUR  
FATHER,  
LORD  
WYATT  
LIGHT-  
FELLOW.

ONE OF  
THE MEN  
AIDING  
THE  
FLAME  
CHAMPION  
...



THEY  
PROTECT  
THEIR  
OWNERS  
FROM  
EVER  
GROWING  
OLD.

JUST  
BECAUSE  
SOMEONE  
HAD THE  
SAME  
NAME--

--THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
THERE'S NO  
WAY MY  
FATHER  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN ALIVE  
SO LONG  
AGO.



THERE'S  
ONE OTHER  
SECRET OF  
THE TRUE  
RUNES.

THEY  
LEARNED  
THAT  
WYATT  
HAD DIS-  
APPEARED  
FROM VIEW  
AND WAS  
LIVING AS  
A ZEXEN,  
BUT...



OF COURSE,  
HARMONIA  
CHASED  
AFTER THE  
FLAME  
CHAMPION  
AND THE FIRE  
BRINGER,  
DESPERATELY  
TRYING TO  
GET THE  
TRUE RUNES  
BACK.



THAT  
WAS  
AROUND  
17 YEARS  
AGO.



...BY THE  
TIME THE  
INVESTIGA-  
TORS  
REACHED  
ZEXAY,  
HE HAD  
ALREADY  
VANISHED.



THEN...  
WHERE  
IS HE  
NOW?



OFFICIALLY,  
THEY SAY  
HE DIED IN  
BATTLE,  
BUT...



I'VE  
COME  
HERE TO  
SEARCH  
FOR HIM.

I'M  
SURE  
HE'S  
IN THE  
GRASS-  
LANDS...  
SOME-  
WHERE.



CHRIS  
...



MY  
FATHER  
...HE'S  
ALIVE...



...AND  
ABANDONED  
ME?

YOU'RE  
SAYING  
HE JUST  
RAN  
OFF...

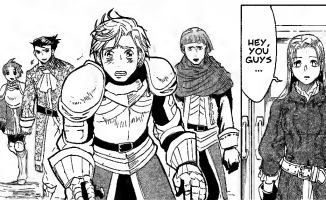


—IT'S  
HER!

BEHIND  
THAT  
DOOR—

THERE'S  
NO  
MISTAKING  
THE  
VOICE...







**LISTEN,  
SALOME!**

?!

LADY  
CHRIS

...THANK  
GOOD-  
NESS,  
YOU'RE  
ALL  
RIGHT!



**HE'S  
SOME-  
WHERE  
IN THE  
GRASS-  
LANDS!**

**MY  
FATHER...  
HE'S  
ALIVE!!**



WHAT...?  
THIS IS  
ALL SO  
SUDDEN!

**LET  
ME GO  
SEARCH  
FOR MY  
FATHER!**



**P L E A S E !**



**S-SIR  
WYATT  
IS  
ALIVE!**



IT'S  
BEEN A  
WHILE.

HELLO,  
LORD  
SALOME!

YOU...  
YOU'RE  
SIR  
NASH!

IF YOU  
HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS,  
JUST ASK  
ME!



...PLEASE  
LET THE  
TWO OF  
US TALK  
ALONE  
FOR A  
WHILE.



YOU  
THINK  
SALOME  
REALLY  
KNOWS  
HIM?

SO  
THAT'S  
OUR  
CASA-  
NOVA,  
EH...?









BUT  
YOU  
COULD  
HELP  
ME GET  
INFOR-  
MATION...

OF  
COURSE  
NOT.



--I  
CAN'T  
SIMPLY  
LEND  
YOU THE  
KNIGHT  
CAPTAIN.

OKAY.  
BUT EVEN  
THOUGH I  
UNDER-  
STAND--



LADY  
CHRIS.



LOOKS  
LIKE  
THEY'RE  
DONE  
TALKING.





I'LL  
TELL THEM  
YOU'RE ON  
A SECRET  
MISSION--  
SCOUTING  
THE GRASS-  
LANDS FOR  
INFORMATION.

I'LL  
BRING  
THIS  
MATTER  
TO THE  
COUNCIL.



YOU  
DON'T  
MEAN--  
LADY CHRIS  
AND THIS  
CASANOVA  
ARE GOING  
ON A  
JOURNEY  
BY THEM-  
SELVES?



WELL,  
THAT  
DOES  
IT...

I  
GUESS  
WE'RE NOT  
INCLUDED.

**CALL  
HER  
LADY  
CHRIS!**

*Let it go  
already...*

**HEY!  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
ME--I'VE  
GOT MY  
MISSUS  
AT HOME  
WHO  
KEEPS  
ME IN  
LINE!**

**NOTHING'S  
GOING TO  
HAPPEN  
BETWEEN  
ME AND  
CHRIS!**

**WE'LL  
NEED TO  
BORROW  
SOME  
HORSES...**

**Y  
E  
A  
H**

**SORRY TO  
HAVE PUT  
YOU OUT,  
THOMAS!**

**CHRIS!  
BEHIND  
YOU!!**

**OH,  
NO--  
NOT  
AT  
ALL!**

**COME  
BACK  
AGAIN  
SOME-  
TIME!**



HUH?







NOOO...

PLEASE  
DON'T MAKE  
ME KILL  
THIS BOY  
TOO.



LADY  
CHRIS,  
GET  
BACK!



?!

B-  
BUT  
---!

NO,  
IT'S  
OKAY!  
WE'VE  
GOT A  
STAND  
OFF!

SINCE  
IT WAS  
I WHO  
BOUND  
YOU WITH  
SUCH  
HATRED...

...THE  
LEAST  
I CAN  
DO IS  
TO CUT  
ITS  
CHAINS  
FROM  
YOU.

W-WHAT  
CAN  
WE DO  
...?!

THIS  
IS WHY  
WE  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
ALERTED  
THE  
ZEXEN  
EARLIER!

FINALLY!  
ABOUT  
TIME  
SOME-  
THING  
INTEREST-  
ING HAP-  
PENED  
AROUND  
HERE!

WHAT  
...?  
NO!

I'M  
SURE  
OF IT.

THAT'S  
THE SON  
OF THE  
KARAYA  
CHIEF.

あわわわ

SIR  
THOMAS,  
WHAT'LL  
WE DO?!



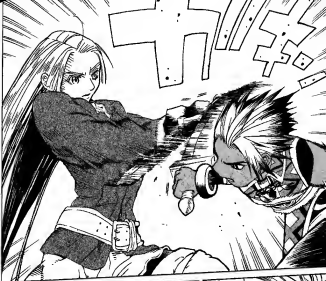






I'M  
ALL  
SET!

BE READY  
TO JUMP  
IN AT ANY  
TIME,  
BORUS.



SO...  
I'LL GO  
IN LOW!

GAH!

MY  
HEIGHT IS  
A REAL  
DISAD-  
VANTAGE  
HERE.



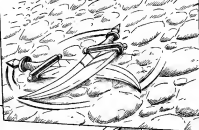
NEVER  
KILLED  
ANYONE  
BEFORE  
--HAVE  
YOU?





UH  
HUH.

THAT  
SHOULD  
DO IT.



77



.....

OR  
ELSE--  
LET IT  
GO.

BECAUSE  
IF YOU  
COME AT  
ME AGAIN,  
YOU'D  
BETTER  
BE READY  
TO DIE.



IF YOU  
STILL  
FEEL LIKE  
FIGHTING,  
GO GET  
YOUR  
WEAPON.









ISN'T  
THERE  
ANY  
WAY  
TO  
JUST  
GET  
ALONG  
?!

CAN'T  
YOU TWO  
STOP  
FIGHTING?!





YOU'VE  
GOT THE  
CASTLE  
LORD TO  
THANK  
FOR  
YOUR  
LIFE.



WHAT'S  
YOUR  
NAME,  
BOY?

SIR THOMAS!!



I'M  
HUGO,  
SON  
OF THE  
KARAYA  
CHIEF!





BUT LET  
ME REMIND  
YOU OF  
ONE THING:  
I'M NOT  
THE ONLY  
ZEXEN  
KNIGHT.

HUGO,  
I KNOW  
YOU  
WANT  
VEN-  
GEANCE.



THAT'S  
THE  
NATURE  
OF WAR.

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
ONE  
PERSON  
CAN DO  
ALONE.



EVEN  
IF YOU HAD  
DEFEATED  
ME--OTHER  
KNIGHTS  
WOULD COME  
AFTER ME.  
AND MORE  
OF YOUR  
COMPANIONS  
WOULD  
DIE.



THE ONLY  
WAY TO  
SAVE YOUR  
COMPANIONS  
IS FOR YOU  
TO WIN ON  
THE BATTLE-  
FIELD.







...YOU'D  
LIKE  
TO HAVE  
THE SEAL  
BROKEN?

AND  
SO...

AT  
LEAST,  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
ALMA  
KINAN  
HAS  
FORE-  
SEEN.

YES.  
WE  
DON'T  
HAVE  
MUCH  
TIME  
LEFT.

IT  
APPEARS  
THAT THE  
FIGHTING  
WILL  
START UP  
AGAIN--  
RIGHT, JIMBA--

IN  
FACT, PER-  
HAPS  
TOO  
LONG...

BESIDES  
...I'VE  
LIVED  
LONG  
ENOUGH





--OR  
SHOULD  
I SAY,  
WYATT...?



セオリアン  
タヌタ

イ  
タヌタ

タヌ  
タ

コオ...

THE  
SPELL  
LEFT  
HERE BY  
CINDAR...  
WILL NOT  
BREAK  
EASILY...

...IT'S  
NO  
GOOD  
--THE  
DOOR  
WON'T  
OPEN.

WE  
CAN'T  
LET  
HIM GET  
AWAY, YUBER

SO FAR,  
ONLY ONE  
TARGET'S  
GOTTEN  
AWAY...

JUST  
HOW LONG  
DO WE  
FOLLOW  
YOU  
AROUND  
BEFORE  
YOU'RE  
CON-  
VINCED?

NOTHING  
WORKS...?



PERHAPS  
IT IS THE  
FATE OF THE  
WORLD...

...ALL THIS  
MEANS IS  
THAT WE  
CAN'T OPEN  
THE DOOR  
OF FATE.

LET'S  
GO.

WE  
HAVE AN  
APPOINT-  
MENT TO  
KEEP.

The flickering flames of firelight began to  
shine upon the continent...

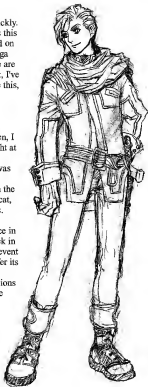
Volume 2 already...this is sure going quickly. I have two monthly publications besides this one, so it's really a lot of work. Spurred on by all of your letters, I've been a manga machine these days, drawing until there are blisters on my hands! As a matter of fact, I've never really gotten any fan letters before this, so I'm really quite happy!!

Anyway, when I think of Lulu,  
I remember my pet chick.

A long time ago, when I was around ten, I kept a pet chick (Shigen the 1st) I bought at a carnival, as well as a pet duck (Kichinosuke). One day, the weather was fine, so I took Shigen the 1st and Kichinosuke to the park to play. Shigen the 1st was attacked and killed by a stray cat, who had been hiding in the shadows.

I felt the heavy impact of that experience in issue #1's final scene. (There was a duck in that one, too...) It was quite a shocking event for a little kid, having a living thing suffer its moment of death in my hands.

I suppose that getting to know my reactions to such an event was truly a valuable experience.



# Suikoden

幻想水滸伝

Geddoe and his companions travel to the village of Bag Users, a community that once belonged to the Grasslands. There, Hila befriends a girl who wants to hear about the Grasslands. Meanwhile, Geddoe crosses paths with a strange cat that speaks to him...but what the cat says Geddoe may not want to hear!

